

HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER "NEWS"

57 Hartford Street -- Phone: 863-2507 -- Email: hszc108@yahoo.com -- Website: www.hszo.org -- Sept., 2006

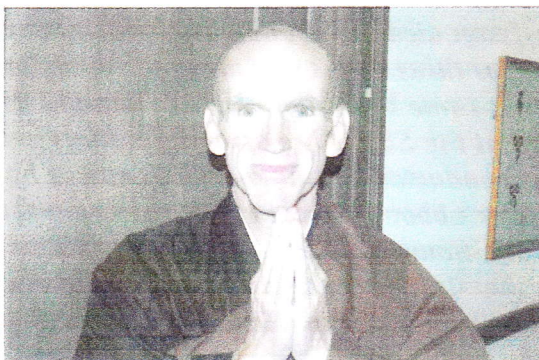
The Whole Tomato

Board President, Julia Ten-Eyck

(Excerpted from talk given to Q-sangha, July 2005)

This summer, I spent a very special week as a guest student at Tassajara Zen Mountain Monastery, where, as a guest practitioner, I engaged in work practice every morning. Most days, I worked, in relative silence, in the kitchen, washing and slicing and chopping vegetables and fruit for the wonderful meals. One day, I had the task of washing, de-stemming and halving an entire case of cherry tomatoes, a perfect opportunity to watch the mind, comparisons, judgments, complaints. Just cutting little tomatoes in half, one at a time. Later, it occurred to me that this is a perfect metaphor for the dualities we create with our thoughts and perceptions, and also for the ways in which, through our conditioned thoughts, we divide our lives and ourselves into pieces: good, bad, right, wrong, okay, not so okay - our judging minds running rampant. At Tassajara, I became more deeply aware of the possibility of a unity of life and practice, where there is no division between life that is practice and life that is not practice. I saw that everything can be practice, can be a path to what is whole.

Leaving Tassajara, I received an emergency call from my daughter, who had come down with the flu and was very sick, and wanted me to hurry home to care for her. That is what I did. After arriving home, I spent most of two days with a feverish, miserable teenager. And it was still practice, cleaning the house, bringing my child cold cloths for her forehead, running to the store, sitting with her suffering, being completely present with it all, not wishing I was with friends, not wishing to be back at Tassajara - well, okay, maybe a little, but when I find myself in that place of wanting to be somewhere or something other than what is right here and now, I just remember those tomatoes!



In Memory
Reverend John King, Shishin Dainei
(September 1, 1944 - August 8, 2006)

The Feline Zen Corner

On the HIV and Friends Sitting Group

Written by Allen Balderson



Buckley says:

On Thursday and Friday mornings a little before 10:30, I'm aroused from my nap with the sound of my two-legged friends downstairs arriving in the zendo. I hear hellos and a few laughs. Three sounds of the gong and all is quiet again. I return to dreams of kibble and blue jays.

Not long after, my furless friends come upstairs from their meditation and one immediately picks me up. I usually squeak and make a fuss, but I really love it. They all try to pet me and say things like, "I think his eye is getting better" or "No more feline acne." But most just greet me with "How ya doin', Buckley?"

We all make our way to the garden, a very cool place with all kinds of plants, flowers and insects. After I roll around in the dirt a bit, I go back to where my friends are sitting. Usually someone picks me up again, but this time puts me on their lap. I squeak and complain again. It's just my thing.

Then they talk some more. Who is Bea Arthur, anyway?

Lately they've been discussing inviting more people to this HIV meditation group -- anyone who wants to be a part. Sounds good to me. Just as long as I get a pet.

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Editor's Note: The HIV, Friends and Caregivers Sitting Group meets Thursdays and Fridays from 10:30-11:30. After a 30-minute meditation, we then adjourn for social time and support in the garden. All are welcome.

Meow:

For the answer to the question, "Who is Bea Arthur?" see the back page of this newsletter.

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MORNING (Monday-Friday)

5:30am-6:10 Zazen - Sitting Meditation
6:10am-6:20 Kinhin - Walking Meditation
6:20am-7:00 Zazen
7:00am-7:20 Chanting (Service)
7:20am-7:35 Soji - Temple Cleaning

EVENING (Monday-Friday)

6:00pm-6:40 Zazen
6:40pm-6:50 Chanting

SATURDAY MORNING

6:30am-7:15 Zazen
7:15am-7:35 Chanting
7:35am-7:55 Soji
[BREAK]
9:10am-9:50 Zazen
10:00am-11:00 Dharma Talk followed by
tea and cookies and discussion.

SUNDAYS and HOLIDAYS - Closed

RETREATS and INSTRUCTION

- * 1-day retreats (First Saturdays of the month)
- * Zazen instruction (brief form) at 8:30am (2nd and 4th Saturdays); long form 1pm (3rd Saturdays with pre-registration).

ANSWER: WHO IS BEA ARTHUR?

Bea Arthur, an actress/comedian, is known for playing Vera Charles in "Mame," where she sings, "The Man in the Moon is a Lady." She was also in the TV comedy series, "The Golden Girls."



Movie Nights

Please join us for our 3rd Sunday of the month movie night, Sunday September 17th at 5:00 pm. Stay tuned for announcement of the movie selection. Bring some finger food to share. Thanks to all our Producers!

CORPORATE MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAMS

As employees or retirees of Bank of America or Moody's, your company matches gifts to Hartford Street, 501(c)(3) non-profit. Sun Microsystems and VISA International also have a similar program. If you know of other companies with matching funds, please let us know. Many thanks and bows.

ROOMS FOR ZEN STUDENTS
AVAILABLE AT HARTFORD ST.
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT!

HARTFORD STREET HISTORY

(1989-1990 (Issan's Death))

Written by founding member, David Bullock

In 1989, Zenshin Philip Whalen-sensei moved in. Zenshin is, along with Issan, a Dharma heir of their teacher Baker-roshi. March saw the death of Michael Merrill, a founding member of HSZC. In late-1989, Robert Breckenridge, a friend of HSZC, bought the property next door at 61 Hartford Street and agreed to lease it to us to expand the hospice.

The year drew to a close with the installation of Issan as Abbot. This ascension of the Mountain Seat was simultaneous with the naming of the temple, Issanji, One Mountain Temple. The occasion was a momentous one with spontaneous tears and laughter from many members, friends and well-wishers attending. One of Issan's first functions in his new role was to give jukai in December to: David Senseri, Niki Rothman, Celeste West, Les Harmon, Peter Goetz, Dana Huntington and Ted Petrella. Unfortunately the year ended with JD's death on New Year's Eve.

February 1990 marked Issanji's first takido/priest ordination. Angelique Farrow, Paul Higley and David Bullock had their heads shaved and were given new names, robes and bowls as children of Buddha. Issan's health was not good then as he had been diagnosed with AIDS-related lymphoma. He became weaker and in June expressed his wish that Kijun Steve Allen succeed him as abbot.

On September 6th around midnight with fellow monks Kijun Steve Allen and Shunko Jambvold nearby, Issan died. As is our tradition, we sat with the body for three days and during this time, many old friends came by to join us. The funeral service was held at the SFZC because of the large crowd and was conducted by Baker-roshi, assisted by SF Zen Center abbots, Tenshin Anderson-sensei and Sojun Weitsman-sensei. The huge volume of people that turned out came as no surprise to anyone who knew Issan. He had touched the lives of many people with his compassionate heart.

(Issan) On Maitri: We started the hospice because death came to the door!